

Message Text

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14

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. SUMMARY: JORDANIAN-SYRIAN JOINT POLITICAL COMMAND WILL ENABLE JORDAN TO EXERT MODERATING INFLUENCE ON SYRIA AND "FACILITATE DR. KISSINGER'S MISSION" IN OPINION OF LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN NAHAR." PRO-SYRIAN "AS SHARQ", IN CRYPTIC EDITORIAL APPARENTLY DEFENDING EGYPTIAN PARTICIPATION IN INTERIM SINAI AGREEMENT, PREDICTS THAT NO PLEDGE OF NON-BELLIGERENCY FOR LIMITED PERIOD CAN PREVENT TWO PARTIES FROM EVENTUALLY FIGHTING. LEFTIST, PRO-PLO "AL MUHARRIR" PREDICTS THAT IN SIGNING INTERIM AGREEMENT EGYPT WILL LOSE FAR MORE IN "ARAB AREA" THAN IT GAINS IN SINAI. "ASH SHAAB," WHICH WHICH GENERALLY MANAGES TO COMBINE PRO-SOVIET AND PRO-CAIRO INCLINATIONS, CITES ISRAELI DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST SECRETARY KISSINGER AND STATES THAT U.S. ACCEPTS THIS TREATMENT FROM ISRAEL BECAUSE LATTER PROVIDES "IDEAL BASE" FOR U.S. PRESENCE IN MIDEAST. END SUMMARY.

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2. CHIEF EDITOR MICHEL ABU JAWDEH OF INDEPENDENT "AN NAHAR" WRITES:

"SYRIA'S ASSOCIATION WITH JORDAN IS SIMILAR TO EGYPT'S ASSOCIATION WITH SAUDI ARABIA...AS EGYPTIAN-SAUDI ASSOCIATION LED FIRST TO OCTOBER WAR AND THEN TO CONVINCING AMERICA OF NECESSITY OF SINAI WITHDRAWAL, SYRIAN-JORDANIAN ASSOCIATION IS ALSO MEANT TO LEAD EITHER TO WAR OR TO CONVINCING AMERICA OF NECESSITY OF WITHDRAWAL FROM GOLAN, WITH THE LATTER MORE LIKELY...IN OPINION OF AMERICAN SECRETARY, SAUDI ARABIA AND JORDAN ARE TWO GUARANTORS FOR AMERICA. THEREFORE ASSOCIATION OF EGYPT, SYRIA AND PALESTINIANS WITH THEM WOULD END ALL AMERICAN AND ISRAELI TALK ABOUT OVERT OR COVERT SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THOSE THREE AREAS. THEREFORE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN SYRIA AND JORDAN FACILITATES DR. KISSINGER'S MISSION."

3. NURIDDIN AL MUDAWWAR OF PRO-SYRIAN "ASH-SHARQ" WRITES: THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT MOTIVATIONS FOR WAR IN MIDEAST ARE STRONGER THAN MOTIVATIONS FOR PEACE. THEREFORE ANY PLEDGE OR COMMITMENT NOT TO USE ARMS FOR LIMITED PERIODS WILL NOT PREVENT TWO PARTIES INVOLVED FROM RESORTING TO FIGHTING...IF COMMITMENTS OF UN CHARTER, DECLARATION OF RIGHTS OF MAN, GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS AND ARMISTICE AGREEMENTS ALL HAVE FAILED TO RESTRAIN ISRAEL'S WILL FOR MILITARY AGGRESSION, HOW CAN DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS SUCCEED IN RESTRAINING THAT WILL?"

4. LEFTIST, PRO-PLO "AL MUHARRIR": AT KHARTOUM CONFERENCE FOLLOWING 1967 DEFEAT, NASSER TOLD ARAB KINGS AND PRESIDENTS WASHINGTON HAD GUARANTEED HIM FULL RECOVERY OF SINAI PROVIDED HE MAKE A DECLARATION DISAVOWING ANY EGYPTIAN COMMITMENT BEYOND RETURN TO ITS OWN TERRITORIAL BOUNDARIES. NASSER TOLD AMERICANS AT TIME SINAI WAS NUMBER FIVE IN HIS ORDER OF PRIORITIES AFTER ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM GOLAN, JERUSALEM, WEST BANK AND GAZA. NOW, WITHOUT HESITATION, EGYPT IS HEADING TOWARD PARTIAL SETTLEMENT. BUT THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE AND ARMED FORCES DO NOT SHARE THEIR RULERS' CONFIDENCE...IT WILL NOT BE LONG, IF AND WHEN AGREEMENT IS SIGNED, BEFORE ARCHITECTS OF REGIONAL POLICY IN EGYPT DISCOVER THAT ALL THAT EGYPT REAPED IN SINAI IS NOT EQUAL TO FRACTION OF WHAT IT HAS

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LOST IN THE ARAB AREA."

5. LEFTIST, PRO-SOVIET, PRO-CAIRO ASH SHAAB: "FOR KISSINGER TO BE RECEIVED IN THIS UGLY WAY IN TEL AVIV IS PROOF THAT STRUCTURE OF ISRAELI STATE DOES NOT PERMIT MODERATION EVEN TOWARD ITS CREATORS...ISRAEL HAS DRAWN ITS SWORD IN FACE OF AMERICA WHICH WITHHELD NOTHING FROM IT. SECRET IS SIMPLE. AMERICA REFUSES TO

ABANDON ISRAEL BECAUSE IT CONSIDERS IT TO BE IDEAL BASE
FOR ITS PRESENCE IN ARAB AREA. IT USES ISRAEL AS STICK
IN ITS HAND TO STRIKE ARAB LEADERS AND ARAB REGIMES
WHENEVER IT FEELS THAT THEY HAVE PROGRESSIVE TRENDS."
GODLEY

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